

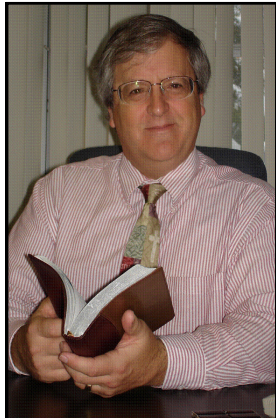
Deadline for submittals is the 15th of each month for the following month's newsletter.

Send to: smlcspublications@gmail.com

The Messenger

From the Pastor: Our Diamond Anniversaries

Pastor Jon Zehnder



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Weekend Regular Worship

Sat: 5:30 pm	Informal
Sun: 8:00 am	Traditional
10:45 am	Blended
Sun: 9:15 am	Education Hour: <i>Kids Sunday School & Bible Classes.</i>

Saint Michael Lutheran School just completed their 60th School Year and Saint Michael Lutheran Church will celebrate its 75th Anniversary on the weekend of September 24-25 (Our actual birthday is September 29, the day the Christian Church celebrates Saint Michael and All Angels – from whence we received our name). Some of you know our history well, for others of you this will be new, but we share it knowing that if God has brought us this far, He will carry us through to the end.

Saint Michael's story begins near the turn of the century when traveling missionaries visited Fort Myers and discussed the possibility of starting a congregation here. The challenge was that no bridge spanned the Caloosahatchee, so transportation was by boat only. It was not until 1931, and the completion of the Edison Bridge, that Lutherans renewed their efforts in this area. The city was canvassed and worship services started with an average of 7 in attendance. This initial community was not sustainable.

It wasn't until 1939, when Rev. H.E. Hartman (from Trinity Lutheran in Delray Beach) led a delegation of 38 Walther Leaguers (young adults) to Fort Myers to call on 800 families. They helped organize a new Lutheran Mission and the District assigned a full-time missionary in 1940.

In September 1941, Rev. Art Weber arrived to lead the small congregation. **On September 29, 1941 Saint Michael Evangelical Lutheran Church** of Fort Myers was officially chartered. And within 6 months, the members dedicated their first sanctuary on the northwest corner of Grand and Lafayette.

By 1953, the little church was sold and a new sanctuary was constructed on the southwest corner of McGregor and Coconut. In 1956, Kindergarten classes were begun and Saint Michael Lutheran School was established. By 1964 the school had grown to a complete 9-grade elementary parochial school.

The final move came when our current Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall (now the Office Center) were built on the southwest corner of Broadway and Carrell in 1968. The Education Building (school building) followed in 1978. In 1994 the Anderson/Eichler Fine Arts and Athletic Center was constructed and then the Early Learning Center was added.

As the oldest Missouri Synod congregation in southwest Florida, Saint Michael has had the privilege and opportunity to daughter 7 congregations: Good Shepherd (North Fort Myers), Zion (South Fort Myers), Grace (Naples), Bethlehem (East Fort Myers), Trinity (Cape Coral), Beautiful Savior (Lehigh Acres), and establishing the Lutheran Church in the Dominican Republic.

As we look back over the past 75 years, we stand in awe of the blessings that God has showered on us and through us. Over the years the Lord of the Church has blessed this congregation with a passion for people (both within our church and those in our community and beyond), for families, for education, for youth, for outreach and acts of kindness and caring. We now stand in the succession of that long line of people who loved their Lord and loved and served others. And that ongoing adventure of being the church in this place continues to lie before us.

Top Events for August

- 8/1 — Church Council Meeting, 5:30 pm
- 8/1 — Board of Properties Meeting, 6:30 pm
- 8/14 — Blood Drive
- 8/15 — Stephen Ministry, 6:30pm
- 8/17 — First Day of School at SMLS!
- 8/18 — Prayer Shawl Ministry, 9am



For other events in August please see our Master Online calendar!

www.smlcs.org

Hispanic Heritage Festival Supports Amigos Center

Members of the Hispanic Heritage Festival & 5K events committee are pleased to invite the Fort Myers community and surrounding areas to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month by honoring generations of Hispanic Americans living in Southwest Florida, for their tremendous contributions to our culture and economy. The Hispanic Heritage Festival & 5K, presented by Fuccillo Kia of Cape Coral, takes place at Centennial Park on **Saturday, September 24** starting at 7:30 a.m. for the 5K and will be an all-day event.

“A special note of gratitude to everyone of the St. Michael Family that have been so helpful and kind to me during my afflictions. I am forever grateful.” ~ *Bette Fussi*

“Dear Friends in Christ,
I am writing on behalf of Amigos en Cristo ... We are very appreciative of your donation of \$3,280 on May 17 and \$10,000 on June 10, 2016 for the repair of the air conditioning unit at our Immokalee building. ... We know that our efforts are only possible because of the contributions we receive from generous donors like you, and we thank you again for believing in and supporting our mission.
Serving Christ and our community.”
Rev. Robert Selle

Thanks You

“We would like to thank everyone who prayed for us and who gave us their well wishes when we saw them at a Saint Michael worship service over the past few months. Pat is recovering well from her 2 knee surgeries and has now completed her 2nd round of Physical Therapy sessions. Dean continues to experience the back pain that has been a part of his life for sometime now. He has been referred to a new doctor called a Physiatrist in hopes that the treatments will give him some relief. We appreciate your thoughts and ask that you continue to keep us in your prayers. God Bless you all,”
Dean & Pat Hartman

“A hug is a perfect gift ~ one size fits all.
To my dear friends at St. Michael: I want to thank you all for your prayers, flowers and gifts you gave for me. I still have a way to go, but God is doing His work in me. I am at Barkley Place, my room is 209 and would love to hear from you. Thank you for your love and prayers. I love you all,” *Elaine Everhart*

From the Director of Caring Ministries



Julie Berchtold
Director of Caring Ministries

Dynamic Marriage is a marriage enrichment course that creates real and lasting change. Unlike many other marriage classes, its distinctive format encourages couples to break through barriers to intimacy, not just talk about them. Over eight weeks, couples meet to discuss new concepts, develop new skills and delve into the unique ‘dynamics’ of their own marriage. For more information about the Dynamic Marriage class, you can visit their website at www.familydynamics.net.

This course will be capped at a maximum of 9 couples, so sign up today!

Save the date! Next 9 week session at St. Michael begins September 7, 2016.

Call Julie, 939-4711, ext. 227, to pre-register.

If you have an ordinary marriage, it can become great....if you have a great marriage, it can become exceptional.

In Dynamic Marriage You Learn How to...

- Truly commit to your spouse and your marriage
- Experience love at a deeper level of intimacy
- Love one another in the way you each want and need to be loved
- Talk to your spouse in a way they'll really listen and hear you
- Negotiate rather than argue
- Manage your anger and work through conflicts together
- Forgive
- Share in and support each other's dreams

"The Dynamic Marriage program has totally transformed our marriage. Before we attended this class, we were so distant and didn't know how to find our way back to each other... By the second session, almost every aspect of our marriage was completely different and we were in love again...we enjoy spending time together, we help each other around the house, and we are working together as a financial team."

— Michelle & Andrew

Weekend to Remember marriage getaway helps couples escape the daily grind and focus on their relationship. By learning about and applying God's plan for a healthy marriage from trained speakers, couples can improve communication and connect with each other more intimately. The Ft. Myers Conference will be held at beautiful Sanibel Harbour Marriott Resort, 10/7/16 -10/9/16. For more information, refer to www.FamilyLife.com/Weekend.

From Our Director of Music Ministries

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Summer break for Saint Michael School is almost over, which means the time is nearing for handbells and choir to begin again! Please mark your calendar that rehearsal will resume September 6th with bells meeting from 5:45-6:45 and choir meeting from 7:00-8:00 in the sanctuary. If you feel moved to sing or ring, please don't be shy! The groups are designed for musicians of all skill levels and all ages, so it is perfectly acceptable if you don't have any experience. All you need is the desire to praise and serve our Lord and Savior through song and the time to join the groups for rehearsal and services. Each group usually serves at two services per month through May.

On August 23rd, Mr. Klug will begin the process of repairing the organ section by section. Most of the work will be done on-site, but he will also have to take some pieces back to Lakeland to repair in his shop. It is my understanding that it will take a little bit of time to get it all back in working order, but since it is done in sections, it will still remain playable for services. Thank you for making this much needed repair possible!

Thank you for your continued prayer and support for the music ministry here at Saint Michael. Please remember to keep our instructors in your prayers as the new school year begins. It is truly a blessing to serve with you!

Blessings in Christ,

Colton LaMay

Director of Music Ministries



Colton LaMay
Director of Music Ministries

From Our Parish Nurse

As school is starting here are some tips to help prevent medical errors in children, which is taken from an article by Eileen S. O'Neill, PhD, RN. *PROTECTING PATIENT SAFETY: PREVENTING MEDICAL ERRORS.*

Be involved in your child's healthcare

1. The single most important way you can help prevent errors is to be an active member of your child's healthcare team.

Medicines

2. Make sure that all of your child's doctors know everything your child is taking and his or her weight. This includes over the counter meds and vitamins or herbs.

3. Make sure your child's doctor knows about any allergies and how your child reacts to medicines.

4. When your doctor writes a prescription, make sure you can read it. Make sure that you receive the correct medicine prior to leaving the pharmacy. Ask for information about your child's medicine in terms you can understand.

Hospital Stays

5. Ask all healthcare workers who have direct contact with your child whether they have washed their hands.

6. When your child is being discharged, ask the doctor/nurse to explain the treatment plan you will use at home.

Surgery

7. Make sure that you, your child's doctor, and the surgeon all agree and are clear on exactly what will be done.

Other steps you can take

8. Speak up if you have any concerns

9. Make sure you know who is in charge of your child's care. Make sure that they have important healthcare information about your child.

10. Ask a family member or friend to be there with you to be your advocate. Choose someone who can help get things done and speak for you if you can't.

11. If your child has a test, ask when the results will be available.

Have a Healthy and happy school year!

Blessings, Ann Sluiter RN Parish Nurse

From Lori Schwan, Director of Nurturing Ministries

Nurturing Notes from the DCE

Children's Ministry

We will kick off our season of "Growing in the Son" on **August 14**. We invite students of all ages to bring their backpacks to worship with them. The congregation will have a special prayer and the students will receive a memento for their backpacks.



Lori Schwan
Director of Nurturing
Ministries



Early Childhood Sunday School

We are blasting off this month into a new school year with you, our First Look Friends. We are reviewing ALL THREE of our basic truths. In August your preschoolers will hear how God made them, God loves them, and Jesus wants to be their friend forever.

Elementary Sunday School

Kids will see that they can trust and obey because God has a bigger plan. Like Abraham, God might be asking us to do something that we don't quite understand. As we read through the Bible, we read about how God has been faithful throughout history. We can trust what we know about God to obey now.

Summer Sunday School Help Needed

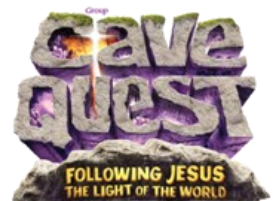
Thanks to those who helped in the summer with our preschool, elementary or middle school students. Your care for the kids was awesome!

If you have a passion for children, we have a place for you to serve with kids or behind the scenes. Contact Lori Schwan as we launch into a new year!

Family Ministry

VBS

Thanks for all your donations, prayers, and volunteer time that were beacons of Christ's light to our neighborhood. Statistics will come next month. A special thanks to our donors: Edison Park 8 Cinemas, Broadway Palm, and also Best Ice Cream in Ft. Myers. Anyone who mentions Saint Michael Lutheran during your visit to Best Ice Cream will get 10% off (no expiration).



Saint Michael Family Faith Stepping Stones:

We are planning for a year of awesome classes for families of 0-18 year olds. If you are interested in facilitating a class (video presentations provided), please contact Lori Schwan.

Thrivent Financial Gives

As we tallied for our annual report we realized 58 members have sponsored 110 Action Teams. Together \$27,500 was stewarded from Thrivent in seed money to help those education, service or fundraising events. If you want to be on an Action Team, have an idea for a project, or are a Thrivent Member and don't know about Action Teams, contact Lori Schwan.



From Jack Proctor, DCE Intern to Youth & Young Adults

Youth Ministry

Confirmation

We will be launching our fall season of confirmation on Aug. 14, 9:15-10:30am. 7th-8th graders and their parents should plan to attend to hear about the year of confirmation.

Those 9th graders, who will be confirmed Oct. 30 at the combined Reformation service at 10:00 AM, will have a special Confirmand Retreat with parents. Watch for your personal invitations! **Until then, you are welcome to the couches on Sunday morning in the youth room with the rest of the high school students!**

Revive

9th-12th grade students meet Wednesdays from 6-8 PM in the youth room.

National Youth Gathering

The High School Youth thank you for your amazing financial and prayerful support. We can't wait to share how we grew In Christ Alone.



Jack Proctor
DCE Intern



Rock the Universe

On Sat. Sept. 10 a group of 55 middle and high school students and adults will be going to Rock the Universe held at Universal Studios. The group will meet at St. Michael on Sat. at 10:30 AM, head out in 1 bus, stop for lunch on the way, be in the park from 4 PM – 1:00 AM watching concerts and riding rides. After the park closes, they will head home, returning early Sunday morning (approximately 4:45 AM). Cost is \$105, which includes park ticket, bus transportation, t-shirt and snack.

Deadline is Sunday, Aug. 21 – turn registration form in to Jack Proctor.

Bands include: Lecrae, TobyMac, Colton Dixon, Family Force 5, Andy Mineo, NF, I Am They



Usher Schedule	
8:00 A.M.	10:45 A.M.
<i>Please contact the head usher if you are unable to serve as scheduled, or secure your own replacement. If YOU would like to serve as an usher, please contact the church office at 939-1218, and let us know which service you prefer.</i>	
August 7	
John Hoffmann...936-8362 Bill Truax Kathy Royston Jack Pohlman	Tom Kosteno ... 489-4398 Chris Zinn Brian Bottorff Marge Bennett
August 14	
Don Zehnder...267-1414 Dale Mast Bob Richardson Jack Pohlman Kathy Royston	Ken Fritsch ... 997-2596 Darlene Fritsch Tom Kosteno Judy Ward Christian Bottorff
August 21	
John Hoffmann...936-8362 Kathy Royston Don Zehnder	Leroy Waldren 989-1048 Chris Zinn Brian Bottorff Marge Bennett
August 28	
Bill Truax...482-8418 Tom Schlotterbeck Bob Richardson John Hoffmann	Tom Kosteno ... 489-4398 Judy Ward Roy Hendry Diane Hendry Christian Bottorff
September 4	
Don Zehnder...267-1414 Jack Pohlman Dale Mast John Hoffmann	Leroy Waldren 989-1048 Ken Fritsch Darlene Fritsch Brian Bottorff

Church Greeters for August Saturday & Sunday Services

- Aug 7** 8:00 a.m. Gwen Schaaf & Harry Pietras
10:45 a.m. Lisa Miller
- Aug 14** 8:00 a.m. Ron & Laurel Volberding
10:45 a.m. Duane & Sue Kolesar
- Aug 21** 8:00 a.m. Emmalyne Smyser
10:45 a.m. Ron & Chris Silc
- Aug 28** 8:00 a.m. Polly & Bill Bryden
10:45 a.m. Jessica & Dave Radecki

St. Michael Lutheran – 75 Years of “Growing in the Son” We will celebrate our 75th Anniversary with a weekend of special events September 24 & 25, 2016.

- The weekend celebration will begin with church members visiting our homebound members on Saturday morning, September 24th.
- Following the Saturday 5:30 worship service on Sept. 24th there will be a nice dinner with music and dancing in our gym building. Hors d’oeuvres will be served at 6:00 PM and dinner will begin at 6:30 PM. Tickets (\$10 for adults, kids under 10 are free) will be available soon.
- On Sunday, September 25th the celebration continues with a special combined worship service at 10:00 AM, followed by a continental breakfast in the gym building.

Please let us know if you would like to help with any of these events. This is a great opportunity to come together as a church family and celebrate our 75 years in ministry and vision where God wants us to serve in the community of Fort Myers for years to come.



**"A Membership Covenant"
in part by Pastor Jon**

(2) I will share the responsibility of my church by praying for its growth, by inviting the unchurched to attend, and by warmly welcoming those who visit. . . . Being a part of a church family, we commit to the mission Jesus gave us to make disciples. So it's our "job" as members to reach out and to bring others in. So we pray for growth, we invite, and we warmly welcome those who are our guests in worship.

You're Invited!

Board of Outreach - August 2016



St. Michael Lutheran Church
3595 Broadway, Fort Myers, Florida 33901

Non-Profit Org.
US. Postage Paid
Ft. Myers, Florida
Permit #97

Return Service Requested

Sunday School & Bible Study Opportunities
9:15-10:30 AM

Sunday School

9:00 – 9:15am “Excite” (games)
9:15 – 9:30am “Engage” (opening)
9:30 – 10:30am

Individual Grade level Activities

Toddlers- 2 year olds
Preschool
Elementary
6th-8th Grade
9th-12th Grade

Adult Bible Studies

Spiritual Parenting for Infants/One Year Olds
Parent & Teens Bible Study
Young Adults
Marriage Enrichment
Family Enrichment
Pastor Zehnder’s Adult Bible Study

Weekly Bible Study Opportunities

**ECALC - Early Childhood Adult Learning Center*

7:30 am Tuesday Men’s Bible Study,
.....6835 Porto Fino Cir, Suite #2, Mike Roach, 275-9233

8:30 am Friday Men’s Bible Breakfast,
.....Pastor’s Conference Room

9:00 am Saturday.....Men’s Ministry/Bible Study
..... Education Bldg., #26, Spanish Room, call Lee Berchtold,
872-8999

9:15 am Sunday Pastor’s Bible Class,
..... Cafeteria

